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Local Church News - May 2012



Rev. Dorinda Broadnax of Community Congregational UCC, Montgomery, AL, was among seven local clergy women that shared the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross, in an ecumenical Good Friday Worship, Friday, April 6, 2012 at 12 Noon. The service was hosted by The Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church of Montgomery, Rev. Claude Shuford, Pastor and The Victory through Faith Ministries, Rev. James Turner, Pastor.

United Church of Huntsville, UCC votes to Undertake a Capital Campaign!

The members of United Church of Huntsville, Alabama, meeting on Palm Sunday, April 1, voted to approve a \$350,000 capital funds campaign in order to finance extensive renovations to its building. The campaign is the result of years of planning and investigation into the congregation's membership trends and space usage patterns.

Writing the Sacred: A Journaling, Poetry & Psalm-writing Workshop

Date: Sunday, May 6, 2012

Location: Peace Congregational Church UCC

1. Psalm-Writing Workshop 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

2. Sunday Service with guest sermon by McGinnis 5 pm.

3. "Writing for Our Lives" workshop during open Prism meeting after church service (approximately 6 pm).

All events take place at Peace Congregational Church at 226 Pendleton Rd., Clemson, SC. Go to the church website www.thepeachchurch.org for additional information.

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Igniting Leadership speaker encourages churches to follow Disney model of 'immersive environment'

The minute the Rev. Christopher Perry began to present a link between the success of the Disney empire and the bold possibilities of the church experience, his audience was all ears.

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Lifting Up... May 2012



Minister Barbara Sullivan, associate from Victory for the World UCC, Stone Mountain, GA, TAP graduate, and recent alum of the GTE trip to Thailand, is recovering from a serious illness. Please hold Minister Sullivan and her family in your prayers. Cards may be mailed to the church.

Rev. Christophe Ringer, pastor of Howard Congregational Church UCC in Nashville, TN has suffered another major loss. His step-father, the Rev. Dr. Hycel B. Taylor, former pastor of Howard UCC, died this past January. Now his biological father, Darryl Ringer, has made his transition. He died Tuesday, April 10th and the memorial service was Saturday, April 14th in Chicago. As he did with his step-father, Christophe offered the eulogy. Please do keep the Ringer family in your prayers.

A message sent to the Conference from Rev. Joyce Myers Brown concerning her husband Rev. Ed Brown, both from Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, GA.

Dear Family & Friends,

Most of you know that my beloved husband Ed Brown, at 93, is struggling with a number of health issues. He was at Emory University Hospital April 3 -6 with severe dehydration, and a number of other concerns. The last 12 days he has been at A. G. Rhodes Health and Rehab, here in Atlanta, on our Wesley Woods campus, where we live in an apartment (WW Towers, independent living). Ed has just been moved from a semi-private to a private room at A. G. Rhodes, 314, which is a huge help not only for the peace and quiet but also because there is a window and the trees beyond.

We do not know what lies ahead. Ed has Physical and Occupational Therapy and they are also working to improve his nutrition (he has very little appetite and had lost a lot of weight; regained some). He has needed more i.v. fluids and this is still a concern. We had a Care Conference today and the short of it is that no decisions will probably be made for another 5 weeks...

Ed's health has been declining for some time before all this and he is very weak – but does not realize just how weak nor why the need for all this therapy. Please do keep him, and me, in your prayers. These are very difficult days for both of us.

Thank you all for caring and for your many thoughtful messages.

Bless you!



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Feed Your Spirit

FEED YOU SPIRIT

An invitation to spiritual renewal

An event sponsored by Victory for the World Church, UCC and the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

At Victory for the World Church,
1170 North Hairston Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Featuring the Still Speaking Writers' Group
Of the United Church of Christ

Wednesday evening, May 30, 2012
7:30—9:00

This event is open to all ministers and lay people of the United Church of Christ. It will be live streamed, and will feature a panel of the UCC Still Speaking Writers' Group offering their personal testimony, and inviting questions and answers from those assembled. The event will invite all God in unexpected places. Materials produced by the writers' group will be available before and after the event. Following the event, there will be a reception. The Stillspeaking Writers' group includes: Ron Buford, Quinn Caldwell, Martin Copenhaver, Lillian Daniel, William Green, Anthony Robinson, Kenneth Samuel and Donna Schaper.

SCHEDULE:

7:00—7:30	Gathering music	
7:30	Opening Music	
7:45	Introduction to the Panel	Tim Downs
7:50	Testimony and Reflection from the Panel	
8:30	Questions and Responses from the Congregation	Tim Downs
9:00	Closing	



Quinn G. Caldwell, a United Church of Christ minister, is the co-author, with Curtis J. Preston, of *The Unoff Handbook of the United Church of Christ*, published by The Pilgrim Press.



Martin B. Copenhaver is Senior Pastor, Wellesley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Wellesley, MA.



Massachusetts. He is the author, with Lillian Daniel, of *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: the Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers*.



Donna Schaper is the Senior Minister of Judson Memorial Church in New York City. Her latest work is *20 Ways to Keep Sabbath*, from The Pilgrim Press.



Kenneth L. Samuel is Pastor of Victory for the World Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia. Kenneth L. Samuel is Pastor of Victory for the World Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia.



Anthony B. Robinson, a United Church of Christ minister, is a speaker, teacher and writer. His newest book is *Called to Lead: Paul's Letters to Timothy for a New Day*, and he is also the author of the just-published *Book of Exodus: A God is still speaking Bible Study*.



William C. Green is Vice-President for Strategy and Development of the Moral Courage Project at the NYU Graduate School of Public Service, and the author of *52 Ways to Ignite Your Congregation: Generous Giving*.



Lillian Daniel is the senior minister of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Glen Ellyn, Illinois. She is the co-author, with Martin Copenhaver, of *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: the Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers*.



Ron Buford is Interim Minister for Discipleship at Old South Church in Boston, Massachusetts. He is the coordinator of the UCC's God is still speaking campaign and appears in the DVD-based progressive theology series, *Living the Questions 2.0*.

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Feature Focus - May 2012



CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF CALL

The Southeast Conference Prepares for Annual Meeting
June 8-9, Birmingham, Alabama



The Southeast Conference will hold its Annual Meeting **Friday June 8th—Saturday June 9th**, hosted by **First Congregational UCC, Birmingham**. A special mailing with registration information, schedules, and other details will be sent to churches and members. The theme of the Annual

Meeting, "Cultivating a Culture of Call," will be addressed by Holly MillerShank, the newly elected team leader of the UCC ministry which oversees the process of training and authorizing people for ministry. We will also feature workshops, panels, and more to help congregations prepare to be effective partners in this important part of our shared ministry. Friday evening will feature the TAP convocation and commencement.

The program for the Annual Meeting will begin on Friday morning and continue through Saturday. At 10:00am we will open with a clergy gathering and conversation around the theme, "**Nurturing YourCall: What Have you Done for Me Lately?**" Registration will open at 11:00am Friday. Following lunch, there will be a panel featuring pastors of churches in the Conference which have a record of cultivating and supporting people for ministry. A convocation following will give participants an option of continuing the conversation by sharing their own stories, or taking a specially arranged civil right tours of Birmingham. That evening, beginning at 6:00pm, all are invited to gather for the TAP dinner, featuring testimonies from TAP graduates, followed by worship and commencement. Our preacher will be Rev. Holly MillerShank.

On Saturday, registration will open at 8:30am and continental breakfast will be available. Our morning program will be one



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or inviting us to re-imagine ministry in the UCC, led by Holly MillerSnank. We will have workshops that will include a wide range of topics, all of which are intended to equip churches and their leaders for effective ministry. The business meeting will follow lunch and recognition of clergy. We will end with a closing worship at 2:30pm. Worship and music will be led by our congregations in Birmingham.

Circle the dates, June 8th and 9th in your calendar. This is another wonderful opportunity to be with our church family!

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Conference News - May 2012



Alabama -Tennessee Association Holds 2012 Annual Meeting March 16th and 17th in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee



Over 100 people gathered for the Alabama-Tennessee Association Annual Meeting at the Pleasant Hill Community UCC, surrounded by the incomparable music of the Holy Trinity Community UCC choir from Nashville, an engaging and dramatic puppet troop from Church of the Savior, Knoxville, an inspiring ecclesiastical council, the beautiful newly rebuilt sanctuary and facility of the church, and a call to move forward toward being an association for the new century. On Friday evening an ecclesiastical council was convened to examine Cameron Barr for ordination. Cameron is a member in discernment of

the association, a member of Howard Congregational UCC, Nashville, and about to graduate from Vanderbilt Divinity School. He was introduced by his mentor in ministry Lawrence Clark, and his CPE supervisor, Lois Morrison. He preached an inspiring sermon lifting up the challenges of living out of the call to Christian unity as a denomination in this time. He was unanimously voted to become ordainable pending a call. Following a service which featured the puppets of Church of the Savior UCC, Knoxville, the choir of Holy Trinity Community UCC, and communion led by host pastor, Tom Warren, the association adjourned to an ice cream social.

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Saturday morning following breakfast the association gathered into small groups to share our life stories and come to know one another better, then convened to the business meeting. The treasurer, Ginny Nixon reported a balance of \$13,830 and a budget for 2012-2013 of \$18,500. The nominating committee reported that all of the current officers and committee chairs would continue another term. They are: Gray Myers, moderator, Leslie Etheredge, vice-moderator, Ginny Nixon, treasurer, and Marilyn Jones, secretary.



Perhaps the most noteworthy action of the association was that a motion was passed to join the other two associations of the conference to work together in the preparation, authorization and oversight of ministry through a conference-wide Committee on Ministry and a network of sub-committees. The motion was made by Barbara Everett. Conference Minister Tim Downs spoke about the exciting new preparation for this organization which began



about the over ten year preparation for this reorganization which began in General Synod in 1999. This work is a way of equipping the new multiple paths to ministry, and will require a significant recommitment of time and energy on the part of local churches, the conference and others. Associate Conference Minister Kathy Clark spoke about the work that has been done to engage members in discernment. Many of those attending were struck by the beauty of the newly refurbished sanctuary of the Pleasant Hill Church, and the warmth of the hospitality of the congregation.

Mission Trips that Matter



Are you looking for a mission trip opportunity for your congregation?

Here is an invitation for a work camp mission trip.

Where: Pleasant Hill, TN, on the beautiful Cumberland Plateau in mid east Tennessee.

Overview: Neighbors Together, a local grass roots organization serving basic needs of individuals and families in the area, is in need of work groups to help us renovate a small old house recently acquired for office space. Uplands Retirement Village, a UCC supported retirement village with residents from all over the country, and Pleasant Hill Community United Church of Christ, a just peace, whole earth, open and affirming congregation, will provide additional work sites and support for volunteers.

Available work camp dates: May, June, and early July

Age preference: high school - adult

Length of work camp: Groups are welcome to come for several days to a week.

[Click here to learn more about Neighbors Together](#)

Missionaries Available to Visit Your Local Congregation



We are pleased to announce that Maryjane and Don Westra, Global Ministry missionaries serving in Zimbabwe will be available to visit your church for to speak at worship or to groups interested in the global ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). they will be available during the month of October. Don and Maryjane are completing a three-year term of service with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. Don serves as staff to the Micro-Enterprise and Strategic Planning/Management Program at Mt. Selinda and Maryjane serves as a Hospital Administrator which includes administration responsibilities at the Daisy Dube Children's Home in Mt. Selinda.

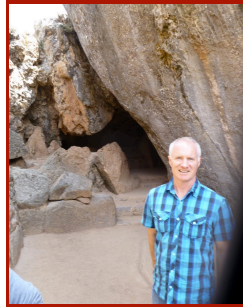
We are also pleased to announce that Anil and Theresa Henry medical missionaries serving in Mungeli, India, will be available August 21 - September 14, 2012, Anil and Theresa are commissioned by the Alabama-Tennessee Associating for their work in India, and were members of Brookmeade Congregational UCC while they were in Nashville.

Please contact Tim Downs at ttdowns@secucc.org or tdowns@secucc.org , if you are interested in making arrangements.



Writing the Sacred: A Journaling, Poetry & Psalm-writing

Writing the Sacred: A Journaling, Poetry & Psalm-Writing Workshop



Presenter: Ray McGinnis

Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012

Workshop: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Pilgrimage United Church of Christ

3755 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta 30066

Cost: \$15

To register call: 770-971-0007

Writing the Sacred: A Psalm-Writing workshop. As a veteran workshop leader, Ray McGinnis brings a splendid range of writing exercises to spark your imagination. At this workshop, come play with words, come nurture your spirit as you learn ways to make your own new psalms. Explore how Psalm writing can deepen self-understanding, expand self-expression, personal and spiritual growth. Ray offers a splendid range of Psalm excerpts along with other poets who have glimpsed the sacred in the ordinary through writing. Ray brings to this workshop simple step-by-step journal writing and poetry exercises to help you write a new psalm with ease. Come and explore the thin spaces where reflective writing and spirituality meet. This workshop is designed for both those who enjoy writing and those who have never put pen to paper. This is a workshop open to older children, youth and adults. Come and discover how God is still speaking.

Signed copies of Writing the Sacred will be available for sale during the workshop for those who wish to purchase a copy priced at \$20

"This was THE most spiritually honest, open-hearted, accessible workshop I think I have ever attended."

- The Rev. Linda Campbell, St. John's Episcopal Church, Ross, California

"Writing the Sacred is rich with insight, power and meaning. Ray McGinnis gives us a great gift by showing the Psalms to be a living language, a poetic language vital for today. These pages are permeated with our human story - our raw and beautiful longing for God...(and) acts as a healing balm and creative catalyst to help you reclaim your soul's voice." - John Fox, author, Poetic Medicine: The Healing Art of Poem-Making, Mountain View, California

"Have I told you how much I like your book? I just quoted your work to someone again yesterday and she's going to go buy it." – Christina Baldwin, author, Storycatcher, Whidbey Island, Washington

"Some of the people who were at this workshop today I have known for many years. Yet, I found myself starting new conversations, discovering sides of myself, new insights and appreciations of others who are apart of my church family... I come away with some fresh perspectives about myself and who I am in community that feels both surprising, expansive and affirming."

- Mary, Participant, Trinity Congregational Church, Gloucester, Massachusetts

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Celebrations - May 2012



Jack Seville, recently retired to Uplands Retirement Village in Pleasant Hill, TN, has been honored by the seminary of which he is an alum. Lancaster Theological Seminary has recognized Jack by granting him the Robert Moss Award for his life time of distinguished service to the United Church of Christ. Jack, who began serving in ministry in Pennsylvania. He later went on to serve for many years as the conference minister of Northern Plains Conference, then later served as interim conference ministry in settings across the region, and ended his service as an interim associate conference minister in the St. Louis Association of the Missouri-Mid South Conference. Jack is quite touched by this decision. He will receive the award on May 18, his 74th birthday and 48th anniversary of his graduation from seminary, at Lancaster Theological Seminary during the annual alumni/ae luncheon. Congratulations to Jack and his wife Fanny for a faith and long ministry.

April 15—19 the national leadership and staff, and the conference ministers of the UCC gathered at Chicago Theological Seminary for an annual consultation. The Southeast Conference was honored that Dr. Kenneth Samuel, pastor of **Victory for the World UCC**, Stone Mountain, GA was the featured preacher for the event. With eloquence and inspiration he called on us to be a people of justice in a troubled nation.

Sankofa United Church of Christ, Atlanta, GA celebrated their 8th Anniversary starting with their 1st Annual Prayer Breakfast on April 14th where Dr. Timothy Downs brought words of thanks and appreciation to the congregation and their pastor, Rev. Derrick Rice. The celebration ended with the Anniversary Worship Service on April 22nd where the guest preacher was Rev. Timothy McDonald. The theme for this monumental occasion was "New Beginnings!" Sankofa began as a new church start in the Southeast Conference in 2004.

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